

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 STATE 189345
ORIGIN EA-06

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ONY-00 /007 R

DRAFTED BY EA/TIMBS:STAFF:CCH
APPROVED BY EA/TIMBS:REFRITTS
DESIRED DISTRIBUTION
EA ONLY

-----081220 270310Z /61

R 262341Z JUL 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO ALL EAST ASIAN AND PACIFIC DIPLOMATIC POSTS

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 189345

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: XC

SUBJECT: WEEKLY STATUS REPORT -- THAILAND, INDONESIA,
MALAYSIA, BURMA AND SINGAPORE AFFAIRS

THAILAND

POLITICAL SITUATION IN THAILAND (CONFIDENTIAL)

THE POLITICAL SITUATION IN BANGKOK CONTINUES TO DEVELOP SLOWLY, WITH THE FOCUS ON THE DRAFT CONSTITUTION NOW BEFORE THE NATIONAL LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY. POLITICAL PARTIES CONTINUE TO DEVELOP A PATTERN OF CAREFUL ACTIVITY, LIMITED BY THE FORMAL PROHIBITION OF POLITICAL ACTIVITY WHICH IS STILL IN FORCE. FORMER PRIME MINISTER KHUKRIT HAS EXPRESSED INTEREST IN RESUMING HIS POLITICAL CAREER. SOME SIGNS OF RESUMPTION OF STUDENT POLITICAL ACTIVITY HAVE BEEN OBSERVED, BUT THE FOCUS IS ON CAMPUS RATHER THAN NATIONAL ISSUES. WE
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 STATE 189345

AGREE WITH THE EMBASSY'S COMMENTS THAT IT WOULD BE A MISTAKE TO MAKE TOO MUCH OF ANY OF THESE POLITICAL STIRRINGS. HOWEVER, AS ADDITIONAL POLITICAL GROUPINGS BEGIN TO TAKE SHAPE AND POLITICAL PERSONALITIES COMMIT THEMSELVES TO PARTICIPATING IN ELECTIONS, IT WILL BECOME INCREASINGLY DIFFICULT TO PUT OFF OR POSTPONE ELECTIONS BEYOND THE APRIL 1979 DEADLINE.

MALAYSIA

MALAYSIAN ELECTIONS WRAPUP (UNCLASSIFIED)

PM HUSSEIN'S RULING NATIONAL FRONT SWEPT SARAWAK (THE LAST STATE TO BE COUNTED) WINNING 20 OF THE 21 SEATS. THIS NOW GIVES THE NATIONAL FRONT 131 SEATS OF THE 154 IN PARLIAMENT, THE OPPOSITION DEMOCRATIC ACTION PARTY ONLY 16, THE ISLAMIC PARTY A MERE 5, AND 2 FROM MINOR PARTIES.

MALAYSIAN POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS (CONFIDENTIAL)

MALAYSIA'S FIFTH PARLIAMENT IS SCHEDULED TO BE SWORN IN JULY 31 AND PM HUSSEIN ONN WILL ANNOUNCE HIS NEW CABINET WITHIN A WEEK OR SO. MAJOR CHANGES ARE NOT FORECAST. THE UMNO (THE RANKING COALITION PARTNER IN THE NATIONAL FRONT) ANNUAL ASSEMBLY AND TRIENNIAL PARTY ELECTIONS ARE NOW SCHEDULED FOR SEPTEMBER 14-16. ALTHOUGH PRIOR TO ELECTIONS IT APPEARED THAT PM HUSSEIN AND DEPUTY PM MAHATHIR MIGHT FACE AT LEAST TOKEN CHALLENGES WITHIN UMNO, THIS THREAT HAS WANED IN THE WAKE OF THE NATIONAL FRONT'S AND THEIR OWN ELECTORAL SHOWING. IN TERMS OF US INTERESTS, THE STANDING OF THE ESSENTIALLY MODERATE AND PRAGMATIC GOM LEADERSHIP HAS BEEN STRENGTHENED BY THE ELECTIONS.
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 STATE 189345

SINGAPORE

US AMBASSADOR TO SINGAPORE SWORN IN (UNCLASSIFIED)

AMBASSADOR RICHARD F. KNEIP WAS SWORN IN AS AMBASSADOR TO SINGAPORE BY THE VICE PRESIDENT AT THE ROOSEVELT ROOM OF THE WHITE HOUSE ON THE AFTERNOON OF JULY 25.

BURMA

SAN YU RETIRES FROM ARMY (LIMITED OFFICIAL USE)

GENERAL SAN YU, WHO AS SECRETARY OF THE STATE COUNCIL AND GENERAL SECRETARY OF THE BSPP IS CONSIDERED TO HOLD THE NUMBER TWO POSITION IN BURMA, HAS REPORTEDLY RETIRED FROM THE BURMA ARMY. ALTHOUGH THE ANNOUNCEMENT INDICATED HE HAD REACHED THE OFFICIAL RETIREMENT AGE OF 60, IT IS NOT CLEAR WHETHER THIS WAS THE ONLY REASON FOR SHEDDING MILITARY RANK AT THIS TIME. APPARENTLY HE RETAINS HIS PARTY AND GOVERNMENT POSTS.

INDONESIA

PRISONERRELEASES (LIMITED OFFICIAL USE)

THE GOI JULY 26 RELEASED 3921 GESTAPU DETAINEES, BRINGING THE TOTAL RELEASED SO FAR THIS YEAR TO 4186. ADDITIONAL RELEASES ARE SCHEDULED FOR OCTOBER (2000) AND DECEMBER (4000, MOSTLY FROM BURU). CHARGE GARDNER REPORTS THAT THE GOI SECURITY OFFICIALS ARE CLEARLY MORE RELAXED ABOUT THE RELEASE PROCESS AND INVITED DIPLOMATIC AND PRESS REPRESENTATIVES PRESENT AT THE MAIN CEREMONY TO MINGLE FREELY WITH THOSE RELEASED AND THEIR FAMILIES.

BRONCHOS BUCK FRETILIN (LIMITED OFFICIAL USE)
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 04 STATE 189345

THE MELBOURNE AGE PUBLISHED A STORY JULY 25 SOURCED TO A FRETILIN REPRESENTATIVE REPORTING FRETILIN'S FORGED "TIMOR" VERSION OF ROCKWELL INTERNATIONAL'S OLD ADVERTISEMENT HEADLINED "THE BRONCHO WORKHORSE: ASK THAILAND ABOUT IT". WE ARE SENDING CANBERRA AND A NUMBER OF OTHER INTERESTED POSTS THE INFORMATION WITH WHICH TO EXPOSE THE FRAUD. AS SHERLOCK HOLMES MIGHT HAVE SAID, "A CLEAR CASE, MY DEAR WATSON, OF FRETILIN SHOOTING ITSELF IN THE FOOT". CONFUCIUS WOULD HAVE SAID IT BETTER, HOWEVER: "POSTURE VERY UNDIGNIFIED IF ONE HAVE BRONCHO HOOF IN MOUTH".

PL 480, TITLE III DEVELOPMENTS (CONFIDENTIAL)

AMBASSADOR MASTERS, ON CONSULTATION IN WASHINGTON, IS MAKING RESOLUTION OF THE TITLE III PROBLEM ONE OF HIS TOP PRIORITIES IN DISCUSSIONS WITH THE NSC, AID, AND USDA. WORKING LEVELS IN STATE AND AID HAVE BEGUN TO LOOK AGAIN AT POSSIBLE PROJECTS FOR FUNDING BY BEGINNING A TITLE III PROGRAM IN FY 1979. GOVERNOR GILLIGAN AND AMBASSADOR MASTERS AGREED ON A 'PROJECT APPROACH' FOR THIS YEAR. THE QUESTION WILL BE REVIEWED AT HIGH LEVEL WITH ALL CONCERNED AGENCIES IN A MEETING CALLED BY HENRY OWEN OF THE NSC FOR JULY 30, FROM WHICH WE HOPE TO HAVE FAVORABLE NEWS FOR THE AMBASSADOR TO GIVE TO DR. WIDJOJO WHEN HE ARRIVES FOR THE ASEAN CONFERENCE.

GAO TEAM IN JAKARTA TO REVIEW ENERGY RELATIONS (LIMITED OFFICIAL USE)

A FOUR MAN GAO TEAM ARRIVED IN JAKARTA ON JULY 17 TO UNDERTAKE A REVIEW OF U.S.-INDONESIAN ENERGY RELATIONS WITH SPECIAL EMPHASIS ON PETROLEUM. THE TEAM WILL BE
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 05 STATE 189345

MEETING WITH EMBASSY AND GOI OFFICIALS AND WITH THE U.S.
OIL COMPANIES, AND PLANNED TO VISIT THE MINAS FIELD IN

SUMATRA. THE TEAM HAS ALREADY SPENT SEVERAL WEEKS TALKING
TO VARIOUS USG AGENCIES, ACADEMICS AND THE OIL AND BUSINESS
COMMUNITY IN NEW YORK. WE ARE EXPECTING A REPORT FROM THE
EMBASSY ON THE VISIT AND GAO'S MAJOR CONCLUSIONS WHEN THE
TEAM FINISHES ITS WORK IN JAKARTA AROUND AUGUST 4. GAO
IS EXPECTED TO PUBLISH ITS REPORT ON INDONESIA IN THE
FALL. CHRISTOPHER

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: REPORTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 26 jul 1978
Decaption Date: 20 Mar 2014
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978STATE189345
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: STAFF:CCH
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780307-0516
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions:
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780717/aaaaaofw.tel
Line Count: 185
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: e5ea576c-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN EA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: ONLY, LIMDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: ONLY, LIMDIS
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 01 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1875830
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: WEEKLY STATUS REPORT -- THAILAND, INDONESIA, MALAYSIA, BURMA AND SINGAPORE AFFAIRS THAILAND
TAGS: PINR, XC
To: EA POSTS
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/e5ea576c-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014